

[| NODIS Library](#) | [Program Management\(8000s\)](#) | [Search](#) |

NASA Procedural Requirements

COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**NPR 8910.1A**Effective Date: March 15,
2004Expiration Date: March 15,
2009[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Subject: Care and Use of Animals

Responsible Office: Office of the Chief Health & Medical Officer[| TOC](#) | [Preface](#) | [Chapter1](#) | [Chapter2](#) | [Chapter3](#) | [Chapter4](#) | [Chapter5](#) | [Chapter6](#) | [Chapter7](#) |
[AppendixA](#) | [AppendixB](#) | [ALL](#) |

Appendix B: Policy on Communication of Animal Health and Welfare During NASA Space Flight Missions

B.1 Policy

a. The health and well-being of experimental animals used during space flight is of the highest importance to NASA for both ethical and scientific reasons. Decisions made regarding the health status and fitness of experimental animals shall be made by qualified individuals with training appropriate to determine the type of interventions necessary to minimize pain and distress in the experimental animal and to maximize the return of scientific knowledge.

b. The need for voice communication during flight shall be at the request of the crewmembers and limited to circumstances, which extend beyond crew training, which affect animal health and well-being. Should unexpected or critical conditions exist which warrant immediate attention, at the commander's or payload commander's determination, a veterinary consultation with the NASA Chief Veterinarian or the Duty Veterinarian may be requested. Such communication may occur via an open or closed voice loop and shall be restricted to animal welfare issues, which require a decision to provide extraordinary intervention or to euthanize the experimental animals. Likewise, if conditions are detected from the ground which indicate imminent failure of the animal habitats or host systems and subsequent compromise of animal welfare, the NASA Chief Veterinarian or Duty Veterinarian may inform the crewmembers. The commander or payload commander may request authorization from the NASA Chief Veterinarian to down link relevant images of affected animals for review by the NASA Chief Veterinarian or the Duty Veterinarian to assist in a decision to euthanize the animals. Such a request will only be authorized when other means of communicating the animals' clinical status has been ineffective.

c. The decision to euthanize experimental animals shall be made by the NASA Chief Veterinarian with input from the crewmembers regarding the animals' condition. The Project Scientist, the Project Manager and the PI, whose work will be affected, shall be consulted regarding the circumstances and the impact of the decision. The NASA Chief Veterinarian will make the final decision to euthanize animals for humane reasons. The crewmembers will be informed of such decision for implementation. The NASA Chief Veterinarian shall be responsible for communicating the circumstances and procedures associated with the decision to NASA Headquarters, affected research teams and in a timely manner to the press through the Public Affairs Office.

[| TOC](#) | [Preface](#) | [Chapter1](#) | [Chapter2](#) | [Chapter3](#) | [Chapter4](#) | [Chapter5](#) | [Chapter6](#) |
[Chapter7](#) | [AppendixA](#) | [AppendixB](#) | [ALL](#) |[| NODIS Library](#) | [Program Management\(8000s\)](#) | [Search](#) |

DISTRIBUTION:
NODIS

This Document Is Uncontrolled When Printed.

Check the NASA Online Directives Information System (NODIS) Library
to Verify that this is the correct version before use: <http://nodis3.gsfc.nasa.gov>
